

TWO NEW COURSE-TYPES FOR THE CLUSTER MODEL

Curriculum Committee

SESSION OVERVIEW

- ▶ Discussion of Toolkit courses
 - ▶ Discussion of Project courses
 - ▶ Brainstorming new Toolkit & Project courses
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TOOLKIT COURSES



- ▶ A Toolkit Course is a focused 1-credit course designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop a skill (an understanding, knowledge base, ability, competence) in order to apply that skill in diverse settings or situations.
- ▶ **Fine. So what is a skill?**
 - ▶ A skill is a demonstrated ability or competence

TOOLKIT GUIDELINES



- ▶ Toolkit courses should be proposed as experimental courses* beginning as early as Spring 2018.
- ▶ The Curriculum Committee will publicize a list of all Spring 2018 Toolkit courses that are proposed at or prior to our October 20 committee meeting.



TOOLKIT GUIDELINES



- ▶ Toolkit courses are focused 1-credit courses designed to help student develop specific skills (abilities or competencies) that can be applied in diverse settings or situations.
 - ▶ For instance, a toolkit course called "Building Professional Blogging Skills" would focus on teaching students to create a professional blog, identify an audience, write and design blog posts, employ marketing strategies for the blog, etc.
 - ▶ A toolkit course called "Video-Editing" would focus on teaching students to create video project-files, import video clips, arrange and manipulate clips, and publish the compressed video to an online source.

TOOLKIT GUIDELINES (CONT'D)



- ▶ Toolkit courses should avoid focusing on a specific technology tool and instead focus on the overarching concept.
 - ▶ For instance, a toolkit course called “Working with Spreadsheets” would not focus on Excel, but would more broadly focus becoming competent with spreadsheets (to include Excel, Google Sheets, etc.).

TOOLKIT GUIDELINES (CONT'D)



- ▶ Toolkit courses are graded on a pass/no pass basis, and *all* students are eligible to take them. Toolkit courses do not require prerequisites...
 - ▶ Unless the toolkit is a sequential course (e.g., Video Editing I and II)
- ▶ Overall, the goal of a toolkit course is to provide students with the opportunity to develop a skill (an understanding, knowledge base, ability) *and to produce something unique to this skill that is connected to their discipline/cluster/interests.*

TOOLKIT GUIDELINES (CONT'D)



- ▶ The course names for toolkit courses should clearly identify the skill being addressed.
- ▶ We propose that toolkit courses, similar to General Education Directions courses, be given an extended course prefix such as ENTK or CSTK.

TOOLKIT OPPORTUNITIES



Toolkit courses are ideal for

- ▶ Half-semester courses
- ▶ Weekend courses
- ▶ "Pop-up" courses
- ▶ Tagging?

SAMPLE TOOLKIT SYLLABUS



- ▶ Sample syllabus

PROJECT COURSES

UNIQUE

*Outside need
Public outcome
Project drives the course*

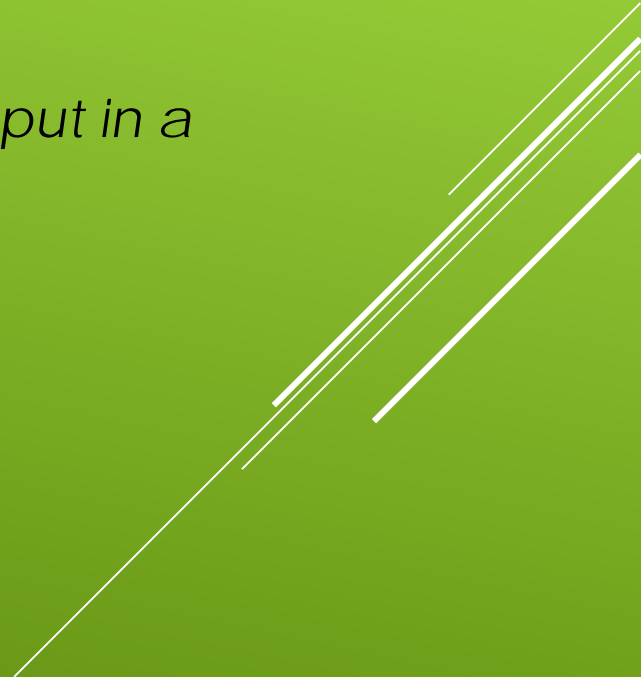
- ▶ Engage students in developing solutions to real-world challenges, by using the students' enthusiasm, creativity and collaborative skills.
- ▶ Organize learning around projects as complex tasks to address an in-depth question or problem. The scope of the project in a project-based course is larger and broader than a traditional assignment in another course and is built around providing practice and real work environments. The majority of concepts are taught in the context of the project.
- ▶ Provide relevant and rigorous learning within a major or overall academic experience at PSU, and give students an opportunity to examine a problem of public interest from multiple perspectives. Students are encouraged to draw on relevant prior knowledge and experience to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge that is meaningful or that impacts the community/public.
- ▶ Develop student skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, teambuilding/teamwork, decision making, self-management and dealing with uncertainty.

A project-based course could be based on a cluster project or a project in a discipline

OVERVIEW

- ▶ *How project-based courses are proposed*
- ▶ Faculty will use the experimental course form and process (<https://www.plymouth.edu/committee/faculty/faculty-committees-and-appointed-groups/curriculum/>) to propose project-based courses.
- ▶ Proposals will be reviewed by the PSU Curriculum Committee on an ongoing basis. Faculty can propose project-based courses in the Fall for the Spring semester implementation.

OVERVIEW

- ▶ *Project-based courses will receive a single code and number at the 3000 level (e.g. IS 3003) and a common project designation in the title (e.g., "Project:").*
 - ▶ *They will be free electives at this time. However, a program could put in a blanket request to have them count for electives in a major.*
 - ▶ *Repeatable for credit.*
 - ▶ *Graded OR Pass/No Pass.*
 - ▶ *Permission of instructor required.*
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- ▶ *Proposal information, also to be disseminated to students should include the following **project-based specific elements**:*
- ▶ *Project Course Identification: title; cluster/discipline; cluster identification; credits (1-4); external partner (if applicable).*
- ▶ *Project Definition: description; public product; project stakeholders; key knowledge; logistics; time commitment.*
- ▶ *Project Management: tasks and deliverables; responsibility assignment; milestones; success criteria; continuous improvement method; project management tools.*
- ▶ *Project Policies: attendance and expectations; risk management; resources/training.*

- ▶ Models of project based courses:
 - ▶ EN3090 Technical Communication
 - ▶ EP 8010 Program Evaluation: Theory and Practice
 - ▶ BU4220 Strategic Management
 - ▶ BU4090 Special Topics: Destination Marketing
 - ▶ BU3040 Marketing Special Topics - Service & Experience Design
 - ▶ BU3040 Marketing Special Topics, PSU Design Company
 - ▶ BU3380 Business Innovation
 - ▶ BU3460 Small Business/Entrepreneurship Marketing and Operations
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YOUR TURN!

- ▶ Are there particular toolkit courses you would like to develop and teach?
- ▶ Are there particular toolkit courses you wish *SOMEONE* would develop and teach?
- ▶ Are there particular project-based courses you would like to develop and teach?
- ▶ Are there particular project-based courses you wish *SOMEONE* would develop and teach?